

SECRET

7 July 1949

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

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SUBJECT: Conversation Between [redacted] and [redacted] on 6 July 1949

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1. I began by recalling that [redacted] and I had been designated by our respective Assistant Directors to discuss close coordination between the two Offices. In our first conversation we had talked mainly about OSO cables and there was still one point that I wished to clarify in regard to their dissemination. I asked him if it were true that the time-lapse between reception from the field and dissemination as SO reports averaged only two hours. He said that was true and that any report I had from any other source to the contrary was false. He stated further that he would not turn over the operational cables themselves to OPC, that these cables were closely held within OSO, and that one area desk did not see the cables referring to other areas. This compartmentization is necessary in order to maintain the security of the sources and the means by which intelligence was obtained in the field. He assured me again that no intelligence information was ever suppressed as a result of these security measures. I told [redacted] that OPC did not desire the operational housekeeping information he referred to.

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2. We then discussed the larger aspect of relations between the two Offices. I recited two or three instances of breakdown of collaboration, each one of which he explained satisfactorily and asked for my sympathetic understanding as an old member of CIA of his problem. He stated that the personnel of OSO were frequently embarrassed and bewildered by the lack of experience evident in the OPC personnel who came over for consultation, and that consequently, area desks sometimes felt bound to maintain a certain reserve in the face of this apparent inexperience. I suggested, in view

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of the necessity for close collaboration by the two Offices at the working level, that an ad hoc committee be formed as an OPS project was being developed, and that such a committee be a joint enterprise between OSO and OPS in order to keep our respective lines clear. He received the suggestion with approval and seemed to feel that on the working level a series of such committees would go far toward eliminating our difficulties.

3. I would like to suggest further that [redacted] would be an appropriate clearing house for the formation of these committees. Doubtless, certain OPS projects would not require such committees but this could be determined as each instance arises.

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